(c) and (d) The scheme covers areas of educationally backward minorities identified as such by the Ministry of Welfare. Areas of Andhra Pradesh which fall in the category would also qualify for assistance under the scheme.

Excavations at Dholavira in Gujarat

2184. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the excavations being carried out by the ASI at Dholavira village in Gujarat's Great Rann of Kutch;

(b) whether Government have any proposal to declare Dholavira a protected monument; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI): (a) The excavations at Dholavira, District Kutch, Gujarat are being carried out by the Archaeological Survey of India, intermittently, since 1990. The excavations have brought to light typical Harappan planning, water harvesting and storage systems, funerary structures, inscriptions, seal, sealings, weights and pottery characterising the successive cultural stages covering a time-span beginning from the 3rd millennium B.C. ending around 1500 B.C.

(b) and (c) The Archaeological Survey of India, has already taken steps to declare the site at Dholavira, District Kutch, Gujarat as a Centrally protected site vide a preliminary notification as provided under rules.

Repair of Somnath Temple in Gujarat

2185. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the big damage to the Somnath Temple in Gujarat;

(b) if so, whether Government have initiated any steps to repair it; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI): (a) Somnath temple is not under central protection, but is managed by a trust. There are no reports of any damage to the temple.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Closure of NCERT's Office at Trivandrum

2186. SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an office of the Field Adviser of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) functioning at Trivandrum from 1970 onwards;

(b) whether there is a proposal to close this office and to amalgamate it with the Regional Institute of Education, Mysore;

(c) whether it is a fact that NCERT has three regional offices in Karnataka, at present; and

(d) if so, the reasons for the decision to close the only office at Trivandrum and to merge it with NCERT's office at Mysore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Council has one Regional Institute of Education at Mysore and two regional centres at Bangalore.

(d) The Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India instituted an abbreviated review on the NCERT, which inter alia included the review of functioning of the offices of the Field Advisers and Regional Colleges of Education of the NCERT. The Review recommended that the Regional Colleges of Education may be converted into